He plyes the Duke at morning and at night,
And doth impeach the freedome of the ſtate
If they deny him Iuſtice. Twenty Merchants,
The Duke himſelfe, and the Magnificos
Of greateſt port have all perſwaded with him,
But none can drive him from the envious plea
Of forfeiture, of Iuſtice, and his Bond.

Ieſſ. When I was with him, I have heard him ſwear
To *Tuball* and to *Chus*, his countrey-men,
That he would rather have *Anthonio's* fleſh
Then twenty times the value of the ſumme
That he did owe him: and I know my lord,
If Law, authority, and power deny not,
It will go hard with poore *Anthonio*.

Por. Is it your deere friend that is thus in trouble?

Baſſ. The deereſt friend to mee, the kindeſt man,
The beſt conditiond and unwearied ſpirit
In doing curteſies: and one in whom
The ancient Roman honour more appeares,
Then any that drawes breath in *Italy*.

Por. What ſumme owes he the Iew?

Baſſ. For me three thouſand Ducats.

Por. What no more, pay him ſix thouſand, and deface the bond,
Double ſix thouſand, and then treble that,
Before a friend of this deſcription
Shall loſe a haire through *Baſſanio's* fault.
Firſt go with me to Church, and call me wife,
And then away to *Venice* to your friend;
For never ſhall you lie by *Portia's* ſide
With an unquiet ſoule. You ſhall have gold
To pay the petty debt twenty times over.
When it is paid, bring your true friend along,
My maid *Nerriſſa*, and my ſelfe meane time
Will live as Maides and Widdowes; come away,
For you ſhall hence upon your wedding day:
Bid your friends welcome, ſhew a merry cheere,
Since you are deere bought, I will love you deere.
But let me heare the letter of your friend.

Swit

Sweet Baſſanio, *my ſhips have all miſcaried, my Creditors grow cruell, my eſtate is very low, my bond to the Iew is forfait, and ſince in paying it, it is impoſſible I ſhould live, all debts are cleerd between you and I, if I might but ſee you at my death: notwithſtanding, uſe your pleaſure, if your love do not perſwade you to come, let not my letter.*

Por. O love! diſpatch all buſineſſe and be gone.

Baſſ. Since I have your good leave to go away,
I will make haſte; but till I come againe,
No bed ſhall ere be guilty of my ſtay,
Nor reſt be interpoſer twixt us twaine. *Exeunt.*

Enter the Iew, and Salerio, *and* Anthonio, *and the Iaylor.*

Iew. Iaylor, looke to him, tell not me of mercy,
This is the foole that lent out money *gratis*.
Iaylor, looke to him.

Anth. Heare me yet good *Shylocke*,

Iew. Ile have my bond, ſpeak not againſt my bond,
I have ſworne an oath, that I will have my bond:
Thou call'dſt me dog before thou hadſt a cauſe,
But ſince I am a dog, beware my phangs,
The Duke ſhall grant me Iuſtice; I do wonder
Thou naughty Iaylor that thou art ſo fond
To come abroad with him at his requeſt.

An. I pray thee heare me ſpeak.

Iew. Ile have my bond, I will not heare thee ſpeake,
Ile have my bond, and therefore ſpeak no more.
Ile not be made a ſoft and dull eyde foole,
To ſhake the head, relent, and ſigh, and yeeld
To Chriſtian interceſſors; follow not,
Ile have no ſpeaking, I will have my bond. *Exit Iew.*

Sol. It is the moſt impenitrable curre
That ever kept with men.

An. Let him alone,
Ile follow him no more with bootleſſe prayers.
He ſeeks my life, his reaſon well I know;
I oft delivered him his forfeitures,